

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 98-678

October 21, 1998

EASTERN MAINE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Request for Approval of Sample
Unbundled Bills Chapter 309
§5(B)

ORDER OF APPROVAL

I. SUMMARY

On August 31, 1998, Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative (EMEC) filed a request for approval of proposed sample unbundled bills pursuant to Chapter 309 § 4. In this Order, the bills' formats are approved.

II. DESCRIPTION OF EMEC'S REQUEST

EMEC submitted two proposed sample unbundled bills for review and approval, one for its residential customers and one for its large commercial (demand) customers. EMEC also requested a waiver of Chapter 309 § 2 for its bills that contain flat rate charges only (area lighting and street light bills).

EMEC has agreed to place the following statement (in place of the standard informational statement) on its bills that contain flat rate charges only: *"After March 1, 2000, you will be able to purchase your electricity supply from competing providers. Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative will continue to provide your delivery services. At that time, your bill will separate charges for electricity supply and electricity delivery services."*

EMEC stated in its request that it will enclose the informational message required by Chapter 309 § 5(A)(2), as well as the information statement listed above, within a green frame that is slightly darker than the framing utilized in other parts of the bill.

Pursuant to Section 7 of Chapter 309 of the Commission's rules, the Director of the Consumer Assistance Division (CAD) may grant waiver requests, provided that "good cause" exists for granting the waiver and the waiver is consistent with the intent of the rule. EMEC has demonstrated "good cause" for requesting a

waiver of Chapter 309 § 2 for bills containing only flat rate charges and that the waiver is consistent with the intent of the rule.

The sample bills submitted by EMEC are in compliance with the requirements of Chapter 309 § 5(B).

Accordingly, it is

O R D E R E D

1) That EMEC's request for an exemption of Chapter 309 § 2 for bills containing only flat rate charges is granted;

2) That EMEC include a message in place of the informational statement required by Chapter 309 § 5(A)(2) on the front of bills containing flat rate charges only that states:
"After March 1, 2000, you will be able to purchase your electricity supply from competing providers. Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative will continue to provide your delivery services. At that time, your bill will separate charges for electricity supply and electricity delivery services.";

3) That the informational message located on the front of EMEC's bills be enclosed within a frame that is slightly darker than the framing utilized in other parts of the bill; and

4) That the format of EMEC's sample bills are approved pursuant to Chapter 309 § 5(B) with the above conditions.

Dated at Augusta, Maine, this 21st day of October, 1998.

BY ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR
OF THE CONSUMER ASSISTANCE DIVISION

Matthew F. Thayer